

The Link

First Congregational
United Church of Christ
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Volume 34 No.2

God is Still Speaking,

January 10, 2012

The Love for All March for Marriage Equality

Dear Church Family,

For too long people of faith have been associated with opposition to marriage equality. In the state of Washington, we have the opportunity to change that. We can turn the tide and show that it is now time to associate people of faith with support for marriage equality. You can help us accomplish this by participating in “The Love for All March for Marriage Equality” that will take place over the course of seven days as we walk from Vancouver to Olympia. There are four ways you can participate and three of them do not even involve marching:

- 1) Come to the Prayer Breakfast that will kickoff of the march! We will gather for this breakfast at Vancouver First United Methodist Church on February 9th from 7 am to 8 am.
- 2) Come to the community forum on marriage equality in Longview on February 11th at 6 pm. This is the day on which marchers will be arriving in Longview. Longview United Methodist Church will have a dinner for the marchers at 5 pm before the forum which will be held at the Cowlitz County Expo Center.
- 3) Come to the grand finale of the march on February 15th. We will gather at United Churches of Olympia at 4 pm to walk the final blocks to the steps of the Legislative Building for a rally and press conference. A little after 5 pm United Churches of Olympia will then host a celebration potluck dinner for us.
- 4) Finally, it is not too late to join the march itself on any of the seven days that we will be marching. People are welcome to march as little or as much as they like. When you are not marching, you can enjoy the camaraderie of fellow church members in either a van or an RV.

If you would like to participate in one of these four ways, please let me know by January 19th so that we have a sense of the numbers to expect and can also arrange for rides. Feel free to call the church or email me at brooks@vanucc.org.

This march provides us with some wonderful opportunities to build community and deepen relationships as we promote a cause that's time has come. Let this be the year that we declare and affirm that love is for all.

Your brother in Christ,

Pastor Brooks

WORSHIP IN JANUARY

January 15, 2011

10 a.m. Worship Service. Rev. Brooks Berndt preaching. Infant and Toddler Care available.
10:20 a.m.: Christian Education for children 3 yrs. - Grade 7. Youth Group Meets at 11:30 a.m.

Worship Volunteers:

Greeters: Joy Gerlitz and Daryl DeSilva
Worship Leader: Kramer Ramberg
Ushers: Ken Rowe and Cory Saum-Blystone
Mike King and Duke Charpentier

January 22, 2011

10 a.m. Worship Service. Rev. Brooks Berndt preaching. Infant and Toddler Care available.
10:20 a.m.: Christian Education for children 3 yrs. - Grade 7. Youth Group Meets at 11:30 a.m.

Worship Volunteers:

Greeters: Don and Judy Walter
Worship Leader: Judy Dahlen
Ushers: John Bradley and John Hannon
Tom and Lynn Renner

January 29, 2011

10 a.m. Worship Service. Rev. Brooks Berndt preaching. Infant and Toddler Care available.
10:20 a.m.: Christian Education for children 3 yrs. - Grade 7. Youth Group Meets at 11:30 a.m.

Worship Volunteers:

Greeters: Bev Boydston and Doraine Kohler
Worship Leader: Leslie Kulm
Ushers:

Mary Jo Ebel Circle

The Mary Jo Ebel Circle will meet at the home of Nancy Woodworth, 504 NE 135th St, on Wednesday, January 18th at 10:30 AM. All women of the church are invited to attend.

Please RSVP to Nancy at 360-574-6724.

Youth Group

Contributed by Kristina Martin

Prepare to have a fun time on the 22nd! We are making some community pizzas and playing some games. So dress in comfortable shoes and clothes, and bring a pizza topping. I'll provide crust, sauce, and some cheese. Don't miss the fun!

REMEMBERING OUR FAMILY IN PRAYER

Prayer requests for:

Our sons and daughters overseas, and the people of the Middle East;

CONTINUING PRAYER
REQUESTS FOR:

Clarice Fossen
Yahriel Harrigan
Martha White

Emma Holden
Al Ebersole

UPCOMING PUBLICATION DATES FOR "The Link"

Link Deadline
Link Mailed

January 22, 2012
January 24, 2012

Link Deadline
Link Mailed

February 12, 2012
February 14, 2012

Silent Auction Items

Contributed by Kristina Martin

Thank you so much for the wonderful donations people so generously donated to the Silent Auction to benefit the Youth Group. Talk about a wonderful turn-out and experience. I hope we can make it an annual fund-raiser to help off-set the costs of our activities throughout the conference as well as region. A few things did not sell and I will be contacting people this week to arrange their return. Again, thank you for supporting the Youth Group! Bless you!

Women's Breakfast Group

Contributed by Connie Oppel

Where? The Inn and the Quay
North East Corner of the
Dining Room
When? Saturday, Jan. 14th at 9:30 AM
Who? All Women
Why? Good Conversation and
Good Fellowship
More Info? Call Connie at 574-8997 or
600-1098

See You There!



January 30, 5-8:30 PM

Highland United Church of Christ
7600 NE Glisan St, Portland, OR

Learn how your congregation can:

- Improve indoor air quality at home and at your congregation.
- Advocate for equitable food and transit systems.
- Conduct a healthy and sustainable food drive.
- Save money while supporting green energy jobs.
- Give new life to contaminated land. Support environmental justice in your community, and much more.

The event will include a locally-grown dinner, keynote by the Rev. Dr. LeRoy Haynes, Jr., and presentations from congregations about their greening efforts. Resource people from the community will be on hand to discuss a variety of topics on putting faith into action around environmental justice, including food justice, transit equity and environmental health.

The doors will open at 5 p.m.; dinner and program will begin at 5:30 p.m.

Registration fee: \$25 per person (\$15 for students). Scholarships are available; contact Alison at awarren@emoregon.org or [503\) 221-1054, ext. 210](tel:5032211054).

To register: [register securely online at www.emoregon.org](http://www.emoregon.org), or download a [registration brochure](#). Our church is one of the co-sponsors for this important event.

January Birthdays

My humble apologies to **Ken Rowe** and **Charlie Ross** for not getting their birthdays listed in the last Link. Ken's birthday was January 3 and Charlie's, January 7. Here are the remaining birthdays for January:

January 16	Kathleen New
January 22	Danya Marquardt
January 24	Dorothy Mathews
January 28	Judy Dahlen

If your birthday hasn't appeared in the Link, and you would like it to, please call me in the office, 693-1476 and I'll get it added to the data base.
Kathy

Winter Hospitality Overflow Shelter (WHO) Volunteer Week: January 15-21 Help Needed

We need YOU to volunteer at the men's shelter located at St. Paul Lutheran Church. The "work" is easy, but rewarding. You can read the orientation book, as well as receive on-site orientation nightly. You can also view the orientation book on-line at: <http://whoprogram.org/volunteer/volunteer-resources/> (click on "St. Paul" under Host Manual)

A SHARE social worker is on-site nightly to manage who is admitted and to assist the men with accessing services that will, hopefully, help them get off the streets. Our job is simple: to provide snacks, a friendly, caring environment, assist with showering, laundry, wake-up calls and help clean the facility in the morning. However, the men at the shelter are deeply appreciative of us sharing our time and hospitality with them.

If you are unable to volunteer at the shelter, we ask that you donate food, clothing, C-Tran tickets, etc. Place these items in the yellow container in the narthex marked "WHO." If you have any questions, please contact Karen Kulm 991-5774 or email at lk.kulm@gmail.com.

Meet Tracey Flynn

Contributed by Gina Marquardt

Tracey grew up in Massachusetts and graduated from high school there. She then lived in North Carolina on a farm with pigs, goats, rabbits, dogs and horses. She went to Norwich University where she got her B.A. in nursing. While at Norwich, she reestablished the cavalry which had been going on since the civil war and is going strong today.

Tracy has served as a naval nurse in places like Japan, Virginia, Rhode Island, and Florida. She is currently a nurse at Legacy Salmon Creek Hospital. Tracey was married to Mike Torres and they have a son named Sean. Sean plays piano and is in the gifted program at school.

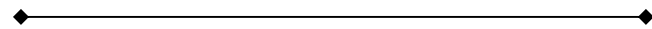
For fun, Tracey runs, horseback rides, skies, swims and reads. She also likes to play the clarinet. Tracey was looking for a caring community that accepted her for who she is, and she says she got a bonus of a caring second family in our congregation. Welcome Tracey!

A Call for Art

Submitted by Pastor Brooks

Ash Wednesday is on February 22nd this year, and our worship service on that day will once again feature art by church members and friends. We are inviting members to submit works of art related to the following quote from a 19th century Hassidic rabbi: "Human beings are God's language." In thinking about this quote, you might consider how persons in your life have revealed God's love to you, how they have accompanied you at crucial times in your life, or how they have helped point you toward God. Similar to last year, our Ash Wednesday service will give people an opportunity to reflect upon works of art with the accompaniment of music.

Art submissions can be drawings, paintings, photographs, sculptures, collages, quilts, carvings, or almost anything you feel called to create. Members of all ages, including kids, are welcome to participate. Please bring your artwork to the office by February 19th. Don't forget to put your name on it!



Congregational Meeting Scheduled

There will be a Congregational Meeting held on Sunday, January 29th in the sanctuary, immediately following worship.

The purpose of this meeting will be to address the 2012 budget.



A Call for Poetry

Submitted by Pastor Brooks

For our worship service on February 12th, members are invited to submit and read poems that evoke the consolations and hopes of faith. Such poems might provide comfort in difficult times or express our deepest yearnings. While original works would be wonderful, you do not necessarily have to submit a poem that you yourself wrote. You can submit a poem written by someone else, a famous poet perhaps. If you are too shy to read a poem in worship, another person can read your poem for you. By February 5th, poems can be either put in my office mailbox or emailed to me at brooks@vanucc.org. Please keep poems short: nothing longer than 35 lines.

David and Teresa Everist

Contributed by Gina Marquardt and the Membership Committee.

It is our pleasure to introduce you to David and Teresa Everist. They were married in June 2007 after having met on eHarmony.

Teresa has three children and 5 grandchildren. David also has three children and 5 grandchildren as well as one in the oven. They greatly enjoy their blended family.

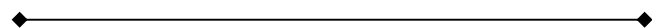
They currently live in the Cascade Park area of Vancouver. For 21 years, Teresa has been a real estate agent for Remax of Clark County. In 2010, she received the First Citizen award presented by the Clark County Association of Realtors.

She enjoys cooking, reading, entertaining, gardening, and family time. She is currently President of Altrusa International of Clark County, which is a literacy program for children. She also is past president of the Women's Fellowship of Parkrose UCC in Portland.

David graduated from Oregon Institute of Technology in Diesel Applied Science. He is the owner operator of his family business Everist Brothers Autocare in NE Portland. Everist Bros. is a 3rd generation family business which happens to be the oldest auto repair shop in Portland.

David also enjoys landscape design, hiking, movies, traveling, and fixing problems on Teresa's computer. In general he likes solving challenging problems.

David was a member of Parkrose UCC for over 52 years. Having been a very active member in the life of the Parkrose church, David liked the friendliness of this congregation and being in the Vancouver area. He was impressed with the children's answers during children's time with Pastor Brooks.



Thank You

To our Secret Santa who left wonderful surprises on our desks, last weekend, Thank You, Thank You. You are very much appreciated!!

Sara Beckman and Kathy Woolley

The Trail Band – Kiwanis Fund-Raiser

The Trail Band is an 8-piece ensemble that creates an energetic blend of brass and string arrangements of traditional and original music featuring 5 great vocalists. The band was formed in 1991 at the request of the Oregon Trail Council to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Oregon Trail.

Hundreds of appearances across America and Japan, plus 8 albums, have established The Trail Band as the premiere historic music ensemble from the Northwest. Cornet, tenor horn, tuba, fiddles, hammer dulcimer, guitars, penny whistle, mandolin, piano, saxophone, spoons, bones, drums, bass, and recorders combine with their rich vocal harmonies to create a diverse tapestry of sound.

Salmon Creek Kiwanis brings THE TRAIL BAND to the Skyview H.S. auditorium on SATURDAY, FEB. 11th, at 3 PM. Tickets can be purchased from Darrell Brandenburg, Ken Rowe or Ed Frank. Prices are \$18 each, or 2 for \$35. All proceeds are given throughout the year to about 25 programs, primarily for kids.

Excerpts from the UCC's StillSpeaking Magazine

The UCC's StillSpeaking Magazine comes out annually. In its most recent issue, an article talks about a survey of UCC members and leaders that identified three distinct values that they commonly seen as being at the core of many UCC churches. Here are some excerpts about each of the three values:

- 1) "We believe in God's continuing testament in the world... We take the Bible seriously, but not literally, relying on God's Spirit to guide us in ways that are faithful and relevant for people today. We believe the church's role is to speak words of love, and also to challenge the powers that oppress people everywhere."
- 2) "We believe in extravagant welcome... Jesus' ministry was about expanding the circle of those who were included as his disciples."
- 3) "We believe in changing lives... We believe it is the church's role to give generously of its resources and time to make the world a better place and share the hope we have found in Christ."

Mission & Outreach Special Offering For January Is Community Of Welcoming Congregations

The Community of Welcoming Congregations (CWC) engages in advocacy and education, providing resources to congregations & individuals. They have helped coordinate a public religious voice in support of lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, and transgender (LGBT) legislation in past years and will continue this important work. Over 100 different faith communities in SW Washington and Oregon comprise the CWC and our congregation is a member. Recent events have shown that progressive Christians need to be more active!

To donate to this important work, write your check out to our church, but designate "CWC" in the memo line and place in the offering plate any Sunday in January.

Baby Celebration!!!!

Contributed by Kristina Martin

Please come this Sunday to the "A Recipe for a Family" celebration for Rachel, Trent and Tyler Corey. Please bring a recipe card with your favorite family recipe on January 15th after the service. All food groups are appreciated and will create a wonderful recipe memento for the Corey family. We will have a light luncheon in Bradford Hall during which people can share with Rachel and Trent their suggestions on other "ingredients" or "recipes" to make a loving family. Additional recipe cards will be available during the celebration and while Rachel and Trent open their presents, we will create a "Recipe Book" for them - from their UCC family with love. If you wish to participate but cannot attend, please send your recipe cards to Kristina Martin.

Calendar Information

It's really easy to keep up with what's happening at First Congregational, Vancouver. We have a virtual calendar on the website.

To view the calendar, go to www.vancouverucc.org and click on the church calendar link. From the list version you may then click on Google Calendar and view the next few months.